



A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory – Home of Science and Engineering Solutions. Work at the lab supports the Department's business lines of environmental quality, energy resources, national security and science.

■ NATIONAL SECURITY – Fighting Bioterrorism

The same technology that helps deliver wholesome Idaho potatoes to family kitchens may be an effective tool against terrorism. INEEL researchers are teaming with a small Aberdeen, Idaho, business to experiment on destroying anthrax using ozone. O₃Co. has developed a patented process to deliver high concentrations of ozone to freshly harvested potatoes as they travel along conveyor belts before entering storage. INEEL researchers are testing this technology with harmless surrogates for anthrax spores. Preliminary results indicate that a 60-minute exposure to high levels of ozone kills the spores. This research and four additional INEEL-developed national security technologies are being highlighted by *Reader's Digest* on its Web site and in the February issue of the magazine.

■ ENERGY RESOURCES – Energy-saving Technology Licensed

An INEEL award-winning technology that could revolutionize the manufacturing industry is about to become available to the public. A Cleveland-based business has been granted the license to commercialize a unique tooling process developed at the INEEL. RSP Tooling LLC was formed to develop and market the Rapid Solidification Process (RSP). Nearly all mass-produced items require molds or dies for their formation. Manufacturers from carmakers to toy companies are always looking for ways to make dies more quickly and cheaply – something RSP accomplishes by spraying layers of molten metal onto a three-dimensional pattern and building up the layers into a full-size die. The DOE has recognized the RSP technology for its ability to save money and improve quality of life for consumers.

■ SCIENCE – Idaho Student Scientist Selected for Alaska Expedition

Corene Boggs, a ninth-grade student at Eagle Rock Junior High School in Idaho Falls, is participating in a scientific expedition to Alaska Jan. 28-Feb. 8 with the JASON Project, a yearlong science program designed to bring the thrill of discovery into the classroom. Boggs, nominated by the Idaho JASON Project and the INEEL, was chosen from thousands of applicants worldwide as one of 24 “Student Argonauts” to participate on-site for the JASON XIII: Frozen Worlds expedition. The JASON Project, a multi-disciplinary education program that gives students and teachers the opportunity to explore exotic locations around the world, features professional scientists, the Internet, supplemental videos, professional development for teachers and live interactive broadcasts.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – Environmental Cleanup Progress Noted

The INEEL continues to make progress toward meeting all of its environmental commitments. Since 1991, 355 of 358 milestones contained in environmental cleanup agreements have been met. And the INEEL is on target to complete a draft study in March of this year, for consideration by state and federal regulators. This study will examine potential risks posed by wastes buried at the INEEL's Subsurface Disposal Area, and remediation approaches. Separately, the equivalent of over 5,000 barrels of radioactive waste has been sent to a permanent repository in New Mexico, as part of an effort to ship a total of 15,000 barrels by the end of this year. Construction on a plant to retrieve, process and repackage additional waste for shipment to New Mexico is ahead of schedule, with the facility expected to go on line next year. Work also continues on the design of a remote system that will allow preliminary excavation of buried waste from Pit 9 to begin by 2004.

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